

MONTHLY NOTES

OF

The Library Association of the
United Kingdom.

Contents:—Official Notices—February Monthly Meeting: Paper by Mr. E. C. Thomas, "Classed Catalogues and the new Classed Catalogue of the German Reichsgericht"—A Distinguished Russian Librarian—Essential Features of a Library Building—Library Notes—Catalogues and Reports—Notices of Books—Correspondence—The Liverpool Meeting.

THE next MONTHLY MEETING of the Association will be held at the London Institution, on Friday, April 6th, 1883, at 8 P.M., when Papers will be read by Mr. RICHARD GARNETT on "Librarianship in the Seventeenth Century"; and by Mr. GEO. R. HUMPHERY on "Librarians and the Working Classes."

As the List of Members has been recently somewhat "depleted," and it would be unfortunate if the Council had to report a serious decrease in our numbers to the Liverpool Meeting, it is to be hoped that our members will do what they can to enlarge the list of fresh accessions. There are still many librarians and friends of libraries who are not yet to be found on our roll. A new prospectus of the Association is being prepared, and copies will be sent as a matter of course to the Local Secretaries, and to any others who apply for them.

After the present number the MONTHLY NOTES will not be sent to anyone whose subscription for *last* year (*i. e.* 1881-82) remains unpaid, unless the officers are aware that there is no intention to retire from the Association.

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING.

The Sixth Monthly Meeting of the Sixth Year of the Association was held at the London Institution, on Friday, March 2nd, at 8 P.M. Mr. H. R. TEDDER in the Chair. The Minutes of the last Meeting

having been read and confirmed, it was announced that the following gentlemen had become Members of the Association : Mr. RICHARD HINTON, Librarian, Birkenhead ; Rev. ARTHUR WRIGHT, Librarian, Queen's College, Cambridge ; Mr. H. W. WOLFF, St. Michael's, Lewes.

Mr. STEPHEN CHRISTY, Highfield, Davenport, Stockport, having been proposed and seconded at the previous Meeting, was elected a member.

Mr. ARTHUR JOSEPHS, 23, St. Charles's Square, Notting Hill, was proposed for election at the next Meeting by Mr. Allchin, seconded by the Secretary.

The Chairman then called upon the HON. SECRETARY to read a Paper on

CLASSED CATALOGUES AND THE NEW CLASSED CATALOGUE OF THE GERMAN REICHSGERICHT.

TOWARDS the close of last year a very important Catalogue was published in Germany, a country in which, for various reasons, printed catalogues are not published with a frequency at all corresponding to the number and importance of its libraries. This was the Catalogue of the German Reichsgericht or the Supreme Court of Appeal for the various States now united within the Deutsches Reich or German Empire. It appeared to me that this Catalogue was of sufficient importance, even to English librarians, to justify my calling your attention to it at one of our Monthly Meetings, because, although it is a Catalogue of a special, and an almost purely professional library, it presents features of great interest, and may not inappropriately serve as the text of a discussion with more general bearings than might at first sight appear. The catalogue of a presumably well selected library of 41,000 volumes on a special subject naturally excites interest, though, it may be admitted, chiefly in the minds of those who are more particularly interested in the special subject. From a more general point of view the principal feature of interest in this Catalogue seems to be the fact that it is an unusually elaborate classified Catalogue, and it is this aspect of it to which I now wish to call your attention.

The classed catalogue has of late years gone a good deal out of use. With the increasing subdivision of knowledge and specialization of studies, the task of preparing a really good and useful classed catalogue has become more difficult, and the worthlessness of a bad and carelessly prepared one more obvious. For this and other reasons, about which it would be possible to say a good deal if I were anxious to weary you, the classed catalogue, it will probably be generally admitted, is less and less likely to be used in large general libraries. I know that some still maintain the possibility and desirability of preparing them. But the enormous practical difficulties must make the task seem all but hopeless to any but very sanguine people. It is quite true, as Mr. Cutter has pointed out, that many of the very earliest catalogues prepared were classed catalogues. But it is

almost impossible not to agree with Mr. Cutter that some form of index or dictionary-catalogue is, in the case of general collections and for general readers, not only that which is now in practice most frequently preferred, but that it is also (within the same limitations) superior to the others.

But though this may be true of general collections and general readers, there are, I think, some kinds of libraries and some classes of readers calling for the old classed catalogue, executed, of course, with all the improvements which time and experience have been able to suggest. I do not suppose that the classed catalogue would be found equally desirable in all special libraries, but there are certainly, I think, some special libraries in which they will be found peculiarly useful. I mean what may perhaps be better described as *professional* libraries—the collections formed for the use of lawyers, doctors, and other professional men. It is in these libraries, perhaps, that the librarian is most frequently asked, “What books has the library on a given subject?” or, “What are the latest books on a particular subject?” and a catalogue which places this information at once before the inquirers would here therefore be of most value.

Again, it is in such libraries that classification might be attempted with the best prospect of success. They by their nature exclude by far the largest portion of that “miscellaneous” and nondescript literature which it is most difficult to classify, and the classification of which is least worth the trouble it involves. From this point of view my subject connects itself with the wider subject of classification generally. If each of the more important subjects were thus classified by and for those most familiar with it, we should have made the best possible start towards a solution of that problem which the Association has undertaken to attempt to solve—the *best* system of classification; and the attempt ought, it seems to me, to be made from this side. Let us begin by classifying particular subjects, and let them fall in together into a whole, and thus suggest their own system—rather than begin by projecting a general scheme into which everything must be made to fit. We shall then be more likely to work out a scheme which may be the delight of those who know everything in general but nothing in particular, but will only cause grief to the judicious in every particular subject. Could any lawyer, for instance, withhold his laughter when he found a classifier on general principles suggesting that State Trials should not be included in Jurisprudence, but be put under History; or Patent Law under Science and Art, and Copyright under Belles Lettres? Fancy the Trial of Jack Sheppard or the Stauntons gravely treated as History, or still more surprising, Drone and Copinger's dreary treatises on Copyright as specimens of Belles Lettres! Yet we find these suggestions seriously offered in the pages of *The Bibliographer* as improvements upon the arrangement preferred by the rest of the world.

Having thus offered some general considerations, I will now simply call attention to the Catalogue which has furnished an occasion for these remarks.

At the date of the establishment of the Reichsgericht, the library of the former Reichs-Oberhandelsgericht was transferred to the new tribunal, which has its seat at Leipzig. The number of volumes in the Library is about 45,000. The Librarian is Professor K. Schulz, who has prepared the present Catalogue. It is printed in double column, and the main body of it occupies 968 columns.

The Catalogue is first divided into two great divisions—Law Books and General Literature (in which latter term, however, are included the Political Sciences apart from Jurisprudence). The proportion of general literature is not very large, and occupies only columns 861-968 inclusive. The first great division of Law proper is now arranged in the following order. First come general works, including encyclopædias; the bibliography and literary history of law; periodicals; collected works; reports and opinions; and works on the philosophy of law and jurisprudence generally. Classes B, C and D are devoted to Roman law. Class E embraces German law, (legal history and private law). Classes F, G and H are respectively devoted to commercial law and procedure and penal law (including forensic medicine). Class I includes fourteen sections, each devoted to the laws of a particular state included in the German Empire. Class K comprehends constitutional and administrative law, L ecclesiastical and matrimonial law; M, international law. The six remaining classes are devoted to the law of countries outside the German Empire.

If I were discussing the catalogue from a specially legal, instead of a general standpoint, I should be inclined to offer some criticism upon some points in this arrangement, but this would be foreign to my present purpose. Upon the whole, it is only fair to express one's admiration of the very great care and ability which have been bestowed upon the classification. In order to give some idea of the pains which have been spent upon it, I need only mention that each of these main classes is broken up into a large number of sections and sub-sections, and even sub-sub-sections. Thus, the subject of Roman law is divided into eighteen sections, and, further, sixty-one sub-sections, while many of these sub-sections are yet further subdivided. Criminal law, again, has ten sections, thirty-nine sub-sections, besides a very large number of sub-sub-sections, and even some sub-sub-sub-sections. A very important feature is that the works, even in these minuter sub-divisions, are arranged in order of publication. "The arrangement of the Catalogue," Prof. Schulz writes, "rests upon a thorough systematic classification. Within the different divisions the books are *chronologically* arranged. This method preserves the internal connexion of scientific development, and enables us to perceive the most recent literature of each subject at the first glance."

To the Catalogue are prefixed a "Systematische Inhalts-übersicht," and an "Alphabetische Inhalts-übersicht," while finally it is followed by an "Alphabetisches Register." The first of these, or the systematic Table of Contents, consists of 43 pages, and is followed by an alphabetical list of all the sections, sub-sections, &c., extending

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It is to this classified and chronological arrangement that I wish to direct your particular attention, and it seems to me to be both interesting and profitable to compare such a Catalogue with anything in this country that can fairly be compared with it. There is indeed nothing in the nature of a special catalogue that has been executed upon a similar plan, and, so far as the subject of law is concerned, none that can fitly be placed by the side of Prof. Schulz's catalogue. The type adopted by those libraries of the Inns of Court which have published catalogues, is the ordinary alphabetical catalogue of authors, with an index of subjects. The classification attempted in these indexes is indeed useful so far as it goes, but has no claims to scientific value. The Catalogue of the Library of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society published by Mr. B. R. Wheatley is, perhaps, the best catalogue of a professional library which we can boast of—when we consider the importance of this collection and the merit of the catalogue—and it is essentially upon the same type, except that Mr. Wheatley has very usefully arranged his subject-index chronologically.

It is not necessary to have a dogmatic opinion upon the respective merits of these systems. Each has its advantages, and I have no wish to decide in favour of one or the other; but I hope that this brief account of Dr. Schulz's Catalogue may call attention to a subject which appears to me deserving of consideration.

After a brief discussion a vote of thanks was passed to the writer of the Paper, and the Meeting adjourned.

A DISTINGUISHED LIBRARIAN.

On the 7th of February died Cajetan Andryeevich Kossovich, the well known Russian Savant and Emeritus Professor of Sanskrit at the Petersburg University, who was also a Librarian in the Imperial Public Library. He was to a great extent self taught, and dominated by the thirst of learning, pursued knowledge during his early years, in spite of very scanty means and most discouraging drawbacks. While at the Moscow University he acquired a sound knowledge of Greek and Latin literature, and especially gained an intimate acquaintance with the philosophical writings of his favourite author, Plato. His circumstances, however, compelled him to become teacher, first in the Tambof gymnasium, and subsequently in one of the Moscow gymnasiums. He earned the reputation of a sympathetic and painstaking teacher, devoting much time to assisting his pupils privately, and he is remembered with affection on this account.

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A translation of Kühner's Latin Grammar was one result of his occupation in the gymnasiums. He did not, however, confine his energies to the duties of this employment, but while teaching others, enlarged the sphere of his own studies by acquiring a knowledge of the Sanskrit language and literature. Translations from his pen, of portions of the Mahabharata, appeared in the *Russkoe Slovo*, and were distinguished by the excellence of their literary style. Dissatisfied with the career of teacher, he migrated to Petersburg, where he obtained an appointment as Librarian in the Imperial Public Library. In the Capital, he gave Lectures on Sanscrit Studies, then a novelty in the University of Petersburg. Into this work the young Professor threw himself heart and soul. He edited the legend of the Doves from the Mahabharata, with copious explanatory notes as a text-book for tyros in Sanscrit, and undertook, with the support of the Academy of Sciences, the compilation of a Sanskrit-Russian Dictionary, a work which, it is much to be regretted, remains unfinished. Kossovich began now to devote much of his time to the cuneiform inscriptions of Assyria. He edited a sumptuous volume of these inscriptions, with Latin translations and a glossary. This is the work by which he is most widely known. It was, however, the means of casting a shadow over his life. The work was produced on credit at a great expense; Kossovich was sued, and had to appear in Court, and although he was exonerated from the responsibility, the affair fatally influenced his health and spirits. A Hebrew Grammar and Chrestomathy which have been adopted in the ecclesiastical seminaries, were among his more recent publications.

Kossovich was a thorough man of books, unpractical and with little knowledge of the world, and to this his difficulty with his publisher is to be attributed. He was, however, of a singularly kind and philanthropic disposition; he often helped students, not with his counsels only, but often with more material aid, and actively exerted himself on their behalf in various ways. Philology in Russia owes much to Kossovich, and his death will be widely regretted.

H. W.

ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF A LIBRARY BUILDING.

THE leading essential features in the internal structural arrangements of a library-building best adapted to meet the two great requirements of (1) quick service of the public, and (2) saving of space in the storage of books, are (1) the separation of the reading-rooms used by the public from, but with easy access to, the adjoining book-rooms in which the books are stored, and (2) these latter rooms being supplied with rows of standing double presses, not more than 8 feet in height, and, say, some 3 feet apart—one or more, according to the altitude of the building, of such 10 feet high storeys being superposed and similarly furnished with book-presses.

The reading-rooms, as far as could be carried out, should be (1) central, and (2) mutually adjoining. In themselves the first and all important desideratum is that they should be amply lighted (both

by day and night). It need hardly be added that they should be lofty and commodious, and withal attractive and sufficiently heated and ventilated,—lavatories too being readily accessible. The walls of these rooms should not be shelved any higher than at most 8 feet, and this for the reception solely of "books of reference," removable therefrom at pleasure by the public themselves.

Grouped around, but not in such a way as to interfere with the thorough lighting of the reading-rooms, should be the apartments, as far as possible lighted from both sides, for the reception of the rows of the 8 feet high presses (as mentioned), the ends of these presses being towards the windows. Access from one floor to another should be by straight (*not* spiral) stairs, of easy gradient and shallow steps, and of width sufficient to readily allow two persons to pass; there should further be "lifts" at convenient distances, for hoisting and lowering books from one floor to another.

The means of access and the approaches from the reading-rooms to these book-rooms—with a view to abbreviating distances, and therefore saving time and labour—should be as frequent, direct, and ready as might be compatible with avoiding obstruction to the lighting of the reading-rooms. With this end in view, inner open quadrangles, necessary to be left in order to provide light and ventilation for the reading-rooms, might be spanned by a few "tubular bridges," forming so many connecting links (thus being essentially so many corridors, lighted by a few windows along their length), leading from the reading-rooms to the book-rooms, thus at once rendering it possible to proceed from the centre by a short, if not the shortest, radius to any desired point, but also rendering it possible to pass round the ambit of the whole system of the building in a continuous circuit.

A very feasible and highly desirable arrangement in addition might be carried out, by having books stored immediately under the reading-rooms in the central block, access therefrom to the room below being by several (say four) similar straight sets of stairs of easy gradient, which might be actually, so to say, outside the building, that is to say, projecting into the inner open quadrangle (these flights of stairs specially covered, of course, and lighted by a window). It is needless to say that this room should have the standing presses 8 feet high and 3 feet apart as before. It need not be more than 10 feet high, and should be over a basement storey, so as to be dry, as indeed should seemingly, all the lower floors of the building.

The shelves of the presses should be loose and adjustable to various heights, and need not be longer than, say 4 feet. The height of the presses, as mentioned, being restricted to 8 feet, their length would be regulated by the width of the apartment: if it be wide there might be two rows of presses, and this would be best, leaving, say a 3 feet passage down the middle of the apartment; there need not be more than say 20 or 24 inches from the wall (or say room enough for a man to get through with ease); if the room be comparatively narrow, probably there might be only one row of presses, the distance from the wall at either end should then be say $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

In all cases the ends of the presses should be towards the windows. It is not suggested, at least as a rule, that the outer walls should be shelved, though doubtless in some quarters partition-walls might often be advantageously so utilized. It may be an open question whether the presses had better be of wood or of iron. In any case the "buttons" to adjust height of the shelves, and the holes into which they fit should be "countersunk"—if of iron the corners should be covered with leather—both precautions being to avoid lacerating the books. The lowest of the shelves should be of depth sufficient to take in folios, then, leaving a ledge above, the shelves should recede so as to be adapted to 8vos. and the smaller sized volumes.

Mention has been made of reading-rooms (in the plural number), and this because having two or three minor rooms for readers besides the great general reading-room would afford, as it has always been found, the greatest amount of public advantage and convenience; one of these, but still not too small, should be devoted to lady-readers; another to a certain few, for purposes of more exclusive or prolonged study.

The librarian's office should be if possible adjoining the general reading-room.

Whether it would be necessary to allocate apartments for a resident caretaker of the building may be a question; it would seem, however, to be desirable. If so determined, these apartments should be at points the most remote from the reading-rooms and surrounding book-rooms; topmost rooms of the building would afford bedrooms.

It may be almost unnecessary to add that there should be one or two small lock-up by-rooms for stores of various sorts, for books set apart for the binder, &c.; and, hereafter, it might be desirable to allocate a lower room for a *bindery*, should the authorities find it advantageous to have the binding done on the premises.

It will be seen that this arrangement saves time and labour, and accomplishes the incalculable boon of abolishing the use of ladders and of galleries, and last not least, very greatly adds to the storage capacity.

WM. ARCHER.

LIBRARY NOTES.

DUBLIN.—As a result of the movement which has been carried on in Dublin to secure an extended site for the proposed new National Library and Museum of Art, Earl Spencer has announced that the Treasury has agreed to the proposal. His Excellency also announces that preparations are being made for a fresh competition for the designs of the buildings to be erected. The Library will be provided with a separate building, and a space of some 20,000 square feet will be available for the purpose. It is to be hoped that the new building may be constructed on the "rational" principles, for which Mr. Archer has contended.

At the last meeting of the Town Council the following resolution was carried, and a Committee appointed accordingly:—"That a Committee be appointed to consider and report as to the extent to which it would be desirable to avail of the Public Libraries Act in Dublin, by establishing general libraries in situations convenient for the people, the Committee to consider and report specially as to the adapting of existing buildings to the objects of the Act, and also as to the cost both of putting such a scheme in operation and of maintaining it in the future."

GLASGOW: STIRLING'S AND GLASGOW PUBLIC LIBRARY.—We have received from Mr. Mason one of fifty mounted copies of his articles on this Library, to which we have referred in previous numbers of MONTHLY NOTES. The mounting is very neatly done on specially ruled paper, and a printed titlepage intimates that the articles are reprinted from the *Glasgow Herald*, 1882. A neat cover of boards makes this a very handy little volume, and the idea certainly deserves imitation.

HANDSWORTH: PUBLIC LIBRARY.—At a meeting of the Handsworth Local Board, held on Monday the 12th inst., Mr. J. W. Roberts, assistant at the Swansea Public Library, was appointed to succeed Mr. G. Catlin as Librarian.

LONDON: BRITISH MUSEUM.—It is understood that the Trustees still have under their consideration the question of an application to the Treasury for the purchase of the Ashburnham MSS., offered to the Museum for £160,000. M. Delisle has claimed the moral right of the French Government to be allowed to purchase the Libri and Barrois MSS. forming part of the collection, on the ground that they were stolen from the French. An old controversy is thus revived, and those of our readers who are interested in it may be referred to the *Times* for the following dates: Feb. 12 (p. 8a b, account of the MSS.; 9c, leader); Feb. 24 (p. 5c); Feb. 26 (p. 5d, notice of M. Delisle's paper before the Académie des Inscriptions, 9c, leader); March 2 (p. 8b, letter from Lord Ashburnham); March 5 (p. 5d, M. Delisle's statement to *Times* correspondent); March 10 (p. 6f, statement as to M. Libri). The House of Commons has been assured that it will have an opportunity of expressing an opinion on the purchase.

LONDON: INNER TEMPLE LIBRARY.—In consequence of the state of his health Mr. Martin has been compelled to retire from the office of Librarian to the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, and Mr. J. L. Pickering, Sub-Librarian, has been appointed Librarian.

LONDON: ST. PANCRAS FREE LIBRARY.—A meeting was held in the Vestry Hall on March 13, Prof. Henry Morley in the chair, for the purpose of explaining the advantages of the library, and enlisting the support of the inhabitants of the parish. It was announced that in the first year 3,310 volumes had been lent, and in the last, or seventh year, 9,596. There are 420 readers on the books, and the library contains nearly 3000 volumes.

MANCHESTER.—At the meeting of the Manchester Literary Club, on March 5, Mr. Charles W. Sutton read a paper on the Bibliography of Manchester in 1882. Mr. Sutton reported that the number of publications had reached 375, against 365 in 1881, and 393 in 1880. Mr. Sutton still complains of the difficulty of securing any assistance in the preparation of the list from publishers.

OLDHAM: FREE LIBRARY.—Notice is given that the Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition to be held in connexion with the opening of the Free Reference Library, Art Gallery and Museum, will open on the 1st of August, and that forms of application for space may be obtained from the Town Clerk, and must be returned to him not later than March 31st.

OXFORD: UNION SOCIETY.—The electric light has been introduced into the large rooms of the Union Society, at an estimated cost for the installation of £1,250. The Society does not expect to save money by the substitution of electricity for gas, but the books in the library will no doubt benefit by the change.

SALFORD: FREE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.—Mr. Alderman W. H. Bailey, one of our members, delivered a lecture on the Progress of Systems of Signalling, on March 7th, in connexion with the series of Free Lectures at this institution.

TWICKENHAM: FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.—This Library was opened without any ceremony on the 24th of February, the newsroom having been already opened for some time. The Library at present contains over 3000 volumes, and has received many donations.

Mr. C. H. Hopwood moved the second reading of the Free Libraries Bill in the House of Commons on Wednesday the 14th, when Mr. Warton talked the measure out. The next stage, Mr. Hopwood writes, "is fixed for 4th April, but amid the press of public business I fear that the blocking powers of the few who oppose will effectually preclude its passing."

Mr. J. R. Green, best known to us as the author of the "Short History of the English People," died on the 7th inst. at Mentone. Mr. Green was for some time Librarian at Lambeth Palace.

It is announced that the widow of Dr. Guest proposes to distribute copies of her late husband's *Origines Celtice* to the chief libraries in the country. Applications may be made to her at Sandford Park, Woodstock, Oxon.

Mr. Samuel S. Green, the Chairman of the A. L. A. Committee on Public Documents, a letter from whom will be found on another page of our present number, has sent us a copy of a "Report regarding the Publication and Distribution of Public Documents submitted by J. G. Ames, Superintendent of Documents, Department of the Interior, A. R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress, and Spencer F. Baird, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, adopted August 8, 1882." The Report is dated December 22nd, 1882, and contains,

besides the report itself, a compilation of the laws governing the printing and distribution of public documents, and a tabulated statement of the documents of the 46th and 47th (1st Session) Congresses, showing their number, distribution and cost. There is also added a proposed Bill and Resolutions dealing with the subject. The reports observe that "after repeated inquiry it has been found that of the principal libraries of the country not more than one in eight is supplied by Congress with documents published for general distribution. This fact alone indicates the importance of some permanent provision of law in their behalf." The plan proposed does not involve any radical departure from the existing system, but proposes an arrangement by which, without any increase in the numbers printed, the work of distribution may be simplified and harmonized, and the requirements of libraries better provided for.

The January number of the *Harvard University Bulletin*, besides the usual records and accession lists, contains an instalment of the Classified Index to Maps in Petermann's *Mittheilungen*, and the first instalments of a Bibliography of Ptolemy's Geography by Mr. Justin Winsor. A catalogue of the Carlyle Collection, bequeathed to the Library by Carlyle, is also begun, and the books relating to "Oliver Cromwell" are here catalogued. Carlyle's MSS. notes are, for the most part, unimportant and disappointing. The cataloguer has supplemented them with long extracts from the printed writings of Carlyle.

We find in the number of *Church Bells* for February 24, an article on "Free Libraries," signed "H. H. M." calling attention to the need for the extension of the libraries. The writer observes that "a survey of the Public Free Library movement in our country proves that its growth lays far behind the requirements of the age [with which we may agree] and its development in other countries [with which we certainly do *not* agree, so far as the old world is concerned]."

It appears to be a habit of the King of Norway to make presents of books to libraries in the country districts. A gift of books having been recently sent to the library of the district of Stiernerö, the independent inhabitants of the district have passed a resolution, "that they deem it advisable, although there are in the present collection books which we gratefully would have received, to return everything."

It is reported from Madrid that the Minister of Public Works has been authorized to treat for the purchase by the State of the Library of the late Duke of Ossuna. The Library is said to be the finest collection of books and MSS. in Spain, and is valued at £200,000.

LIBRARY CATALOGUES AND REPORTS.

Catalogue of the Birkenhead Free Public Library . . . Birkenhead, 1882. 8vo, pp. viii.-368. hf. bds.

Part I is a catalogue of the Lending Department, part II of the Reference Department, and part III is an Index of Names to Lending Library. The books are arranged in classes. The catalogue is printed in double columns.

Borough of Nottingham. Free Public Libraries. Class List (No. 1) of Books in the Reference Library. K. History, Government Record Publications. 8vo, pp. 32. Price One Penny.

Mr. Briscoe has enclosed the List of Record publications, issued by the Record office and the Stationery office, in a brilliant wrapper, and issues it to his readers at the price mentioned.

Borough of Birmingham. The Twentieth and Twenty-first Annual Reports of the Free Libraries Committee. On the years 1881 and 1882. Birmingham, 1883. 8vo, pp. iv.-126.

No report having been issued for 1881, in consequence of the transitional state of the libraries, the statistics for that year are included in the present report, which also contains a full account of the proceedings in connexion with the opening of the restored libraries on June 1, 1882. The new Reference Library has already attained the number of 50,000 volumes, exclusive of patents. The Shakspeare Memorial Library now contains 4,390 volumes. The issues in the Reference Library for 1881 were—week-days, 226,708; Sundays, 20,742, total 247,450; for 1882 (the library being closed for considerably more than a month)—week-days, 202,179; Sundays, 25,095, total 227,274. The issues in the Central Lending Library were for 1881—181,568 (the proportion of fiction being about 59 per cent.), for 1882, library being closed for six weeks, 186,988. The number of volumes in the library is 21,394. The entire number of volumes in all the libraries, including four branch libraries, is 98,900, and the aggregate issues from all these collections for the year 1882 was 622,842, of which 25,095 were issued in the Reference Library upon Sundays. The receipts for the year 1882 were £7,413 1s. 9d., including £6,392 2s. 6d. from the rate, and the amount expended was £13,295 18s. 4d., the difference being made up out of the money received from the Insurance Fund and accumulated income.

Blackpool. The Annual Report of the Committee of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Blackpool, for the year ending 4th November, 1882. Blackpool. 8vo, pp. 8.

The income, including balance from last year, was £597 1s. 8d., the rate for the year being £430. The expenditure was £370 0s. 6d. The number of books in the library was 3,349. The issues for the year were 26,091, the proportion of fiction amounting to 86 per cent.! The visits to the reading-room and reference library were 42,727.

Borough of Plymouth. Sixth Report of the Free Public Library and News-Rooms Committee. . . . Presented to the Town Council, February 14th, 1883. 1882. Plymouth, 1883. 8vo, pp. 34 and wrapper.

The total income was £876 16s. 7d., and the expenditure within £3 of the income. The library now contains 15,519 volumes and pamphlets, exclusive of the Patents. The total issues were 182,321, being a considerable advance upon any previous year. Of these 155,226 were in the Lending and 27,095 in the Reference Department. A list of additions for the year and various statistical tables are added. The want of increased accommodation is much felt. A day census showed that 1,687 persons visited the news-rooms in one day.

York Subscription Library. Appendix to the General Alphabetical Catalogue for the Year 1882. York, 1883. 8vo, pp. 18.

On p. 2 is printed the "eighty-ninth" annual report, in which the committee announce that the number of volumes circulated was 26,296, besides magazines. The volumes added were 276. The income from subscriptions, &c., was £461 16s. 6d., and the year closed with a balance of £14 due to the treasurer.

The sub-committee appointed to inquire into the condition of the Public Library, &c., at Northampton have recommended that no

formal report should be issued this year. From information furnished by the hon. sec., however, which has already appeared in a local newspaper, we gather that the progress of the library has not been satisfactory. This is considered to be partly due to the totally inadequate stock of current and popular works. Of the 9,500 volumes upon the shelves, many are said to be imperfect or dilapidated, and no scientific works have been added to the library for thirty years. It has been decided to appeal to the public for contributions towards supplying modern works and printing a new catalogue. The issues for 1882 were, in the lending department, 11,428, of which 9,767 were fiction and poetry; in the reference department, 626. A very large proportion of the borrowers are very young, and not more than twenty of either sex over twenty-five years of age are using the library. There is a better account of the reading-room, and 52,000 persons, it is estimated, visit it during the year.

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

An Index to Periodical Literature, by William Frederick Poole, LL.D., Librarian of the Chicago Public Library. Third Edition, brought down to January, 1882, with the assistance as Associate Editor of William I. Fletcher, Assistant-Librarian of the Watkinson Library, Hartford, Conn., and the co-operation of the American Library Association and the Library Association of the United Kingdom. Boston and London, 1882. Roy. 8vo, pp. xxvii., 1442, double coll.

We are glad to offer a hearty welcome to this imposing volume, although in our limited space it is impossible to say all that we should like to say of it. We may be allowed here, however, to say that we regard it as a great monument of unpaid and public-spirited co-operation, and, we might add, a practical refutation of Bacon's saying that "charity will hardly water the ground where it must first fill a *pool*." For the public spirit and enthusiasm which have animated Dr. Poole have extended themselves to no less than fifty institutions or individuals, who between them have indexed no less than 4,103 volumes of periodicals. Dr. Poole himself is responsible for one-third of the whole number of volumes indexed, the total amounting to 6,205. The number of volumes indexed on this side of the water is indeed only 153, Mr. J. T. Clark heading the list with 56 volumes, and Mr. Robert Harrison carrying off the wooden spoon with two volumes. The English contribution is smaller, no doubt, than might have been expected, when we remember that out of the 232 periodicals here indexed 90 are English publications. But it must be borne in mind that the American contributors had the first opportunity of selecting their work, and that many of the periodicals thus left were the less common and less generally interesting publications. I think it not unreasonable, as a member of the English committee on Mr. Poole's Index, to offer this explanation here, in addition to those made by Mr. Poole himself in his preface (p. vi). It is worth while to note Mr. Poole's strong testimony to the co-operative principle, which he declares to be "simple, effective, and attended with no embarrassments or difficulties of any kind. I have doubt whether a society organisation, with its officers, committees, and ample funds for the payment of workers, could bring about more effective results." Certainly, all the work done by the Index Society figures very poorly by the side of that accomplished by Mr. Poole and his fellow-workers. Mr. Poole calls attention to the fact that at the meeting of the A. L. A. in May last he "suggested a general index to books other than periodicals." It may be remembered that I wrote a paper on this subject for

our Oxford Meeting in 1878, and I ought perhaps to say that I have by no means abandoned the idea of carrying out the plan. E. C. T.

The Publishers' Trade List Annual, 1882. . . . Tenth Year. New York, F. Leypoldt, September, 1882. Imp. 8vo, pp. 8-xxxii-130-44 +.

This is the American equivalent—and indeed somewhat more than an equivalent—for the English Reference Catalogue. It is a bulky volume of well towards 2,000 pages, the greater part of it consisting of American publishers' catalogues arranged alphabetically. These, however, are preceded by, 1, an index to contributors and advertisers; 2, index to publishers of special lines; 3, an Annual Record of Books, 1881-82, with an index; and, 4, a Catalogue of American Educational Works for 1882.

Index to the Journal of the Society of Telegraph Engineers and of Electricians. Vols. I-X: 1872-1882. Compiled by Alfred J. Frost, Librarian. London and New York, 1882. 8vo, pp. 63. Price 2s: 6d.

A useful addition to the list of indexes which have been separately published. The names of authors and of subjects are printed in distinctive types.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS TO LIBRARIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

Worcester, Mass., Feb. 26th, 1883.

MY DEAR SIR,—I see that you are interested in obtaining information regarding measures that are proposed for securing in the United States a distribution of Public Documents more satisfactory to librarians than that made at present.

I therefore mail you herewith a copy of a report, bill and resolutions proposed by order of Congress at its last session and presented to Congress at its present session.

The report, &c., are evidently the work of Mr. Ames, a gentleman who is very much in earnest in the matter of trying to secure legislation that will enforce a proper distribution of documents.

As chairman of a committee of the American Library Association, I have written to members of the Senate Committee on Printing, urging the passage of Mr. Ames's bill and resolution, and, at my request, a number of other librarians of leading libraries of the country have also written to members of this committee.

I think, however, that there is no chance of legislation on this matter in the present session, as it closes March 4, and Congress has a large amount of important unfinished business now under consideration.

By continual agitation librarians believe that they will finally get what they desire.

Very truly yours,
SAMUEL S. GREEN.

STATISTICS OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

I must apologise for writing in this apparently inconsequent way, after allowing the statement to which I now wish to call

attention to pass unchallenged not only at the February meeting, but also in the proof of Mr. Credland's paper. But it did not, in fact occur to me that there was anything in it to remark upon until I came to read Mr. Credland's interesting paper with more deliberation. The statement I wish to challenge, with Mr. Credland's permission, occurs at the top of p. 19 of the February NOTES: "There are now nearly 100 rate-supported libraries in Great Britain, containing over 3,000,000 volumes." The number of places in which the Acts have been adopted I believe to be one or two over, rather than under, the hundred; but there are not, I believe, quite 100 libraries actually working. So far, therefore, Mr. Credland seems to me to be entirely right. But I feel sure that his estimate of 3,000,000 volumes is a great deal too high. It would mean an average of 30,000 volumes per library. I believe, from the data in my possession that the true number is barely 1,600,000, and *certainly* not much beyond that figure.

May I ask, while I am writing on this subject, whether the statement can be correct which I find in the address issued by the promoters of the Free Library movement at Taunton (which is nearly identical with the address issued at Brentford the other day), viz., that Penzance is one of the smaller towns which have adopted the Acts? I was not aware that the Acts have been adopted there, and I should like to know if it is so.

ERNEST -C. THOMAS.

CAUTION.

*Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street,
Feb. 27, 1883.*

With respect to "Mr. George," I may mention that he called at my private residence twice, and each time late in the evening. I have no idea how he found out my private address. He introduced himself by mentioning the name of the Curator of this Museum, and, although I rather doubted him, he succeeded in enlisting my sympathy. He said he had been engaged in library work up in the North, and he mentioned that he was known by Mr. Axon, Mr. Mullins, and others. He told a piteous tale of walking about the streets all night with his young wife.

Our Curator he favoured with a visit on Christmas Day, and, being then successful, he sent his wife about a fortnight after with a letter stating that he wanted to raise a little money to enable him to visit Manchester, on account of Mr. Axon having got for him some baronet's library to arrange.

Shortly after that I heard from Mr. Dallas, of the Geological Society, that George had called on him; and I also heard that he had called on Mr. Walter White, of the Royal Society.

All these visits (except one) have been made at night, and not at the offices, or during office hours.

THOMAS WM. NEWTON.

THE LIVERPOOL MEETING.

OUR members will be interested to learn that the arrangements for the next annual meeting at Liverpool are being actively made. A preliminary meeting for the purpose of forming a Local Committee was held in the Town Hall on March 5th. Sir James Picton presided, and there were present the Mayor of Wigan (Mr. Alderman Park), the Mayor of Bootle (Mr. J. Webster), the Revs. J. W. Diggle and H. Becke (vice-principal of Liverpool College), Alderman Samuelson, Councillors I. Davies, Muspratt, Lunt, and Holder; Lieut.-Colonel Pilkington, Captain Waterhouse, Messrs. J. A. Tinne, H. T. Folkard (librarian, Wigan), G. L. Campbell (Wigan), C. W. Sutton (librarian, Manchester), D. Geddes (librarian, Blackburn), J. D. Buckland (librarian, Stockport), A. Wakefield (librarian Liverpool Lyceum), Joseph Hales, T. J. Moore (curator Liverpool Museum), C. Dyall (Walker Art Gallery), C. Sherlock, P. Cowell (chief librarian, Liverpool), William Brown (Chester Library Committee), W. A. Abram (Blackburn), B. H. Grindley, J. Lovell, Thomas Snape, F. Weville, G. F. Chantrell, Henry Firth, J. W. Scholefield, Dr. Waters, H. R. Lacey (chairman St. Helens Free Library), A. Lancaster (librarian St. Helens Library), Henry Greenwood, Alexander Watt, W. Potter, P. B. McQuie, J. Southward, J. F. L. Clare, G. G. Walmsley, &c.

It was announced that several gentlemen had been prevented from attending that meeting, and Mr. A. B. Forwood had telephoned from his residence at Gateacre that he was disappointed at not being able to attend. There were also letters from the following gentlemen:—Colonel McCorquodale, Mr. James Samuelson, Mr. T. Cope, Mr. A. Castellain, Mr. S. Huggins, Mr. Gamble, Rev. S. Pearson, the librarians of the Blackpool and Chester libraries, and of Lord Derby's library at Knowsley, Alderman Hibbert (of Preston), Professor Herdman, and Dr. Nevins.

The Chairman having explained the objects of the meeting, those present resolved themselves into a general committee, and the following were elected on the Executive Committee:—Sir James A. Picton, the Mayor of Wigan, Professor Forsyth, Alderman Samuelson, Rev. W. Bannister, Colonel Pilkington, Messrs. B. H. Grindley, Nevill, E. R. Russell, J. Lovell, G. G. Walmsley, J. A. Tinne, Sherlock, T. Cope, W. J. Lunt, Campbell, J. Samuelson, W. Crosfield, C. Dyall, Moore, Gatty, Potter, J. A. Willox, J. A. Wakefield, M. Guthrie (treasurer), W. J. Stewart and P. Cowell (hon. secs.).

We are glad to hear that there is a good prospect that the forthcoming meeting will be equal to any of its predecessors in usefulness and pleasantness.

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